



For Immediate Release:

The T.J. Martell Foundation Announces Spirit of Excellence Awards Celebration

Foundation Honors Big Boy, Jeanie Buss, Richard D. Cordova and Michael Zislis in Los Angeles

Tuesday - September 1, 2015 – Beverly Wilshire Hotel

Los Angeles, California – (August 10, 2015) – The T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer, and AIDS Research announced the **Spirit of Excellence Awards** celebrating four outstanding visionaries from entertainment and medicine. The Spirit of Excellence Awards will be held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. A 6:00 p.m. cocktail reception will be followed by a 7:30 p.m. dinner and award presentation. The honorees include nationally syndicated radio host **Big Boy known as the “Voice of LA.”** Big Boy will be honored with the Entertainment Trailblazer Award, **Jeanie Buss, Co-owner and President of the Los Angeles Lakers** will receive this year’s Vanguard Award recognizing those at the forefront of business leadership who give back to their communities and beyond, **Richard D. Cordova, President & CEO of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles** will receive this year’s Spirit of Leadership Award and **Michael Zislis, Owner of The Zislis Group** will receive this year’s Business Visionary Award.

Tickets to the awards can be purchased here:

<https://app.etapestry.com/cart/TJMartellFoundation/default/category.php?ref=852.0.190018717#.VcT94NNeuDM>



The annual Spirit of Excellence Awards brings together music, entertainment, top business executives and celebrities and is one of the most sought after tickets in the industry. It is also one of the most important events for The T.J. Martell Foundation allowing the organization to continue its work in Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS research. Red carpet arrivals will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Big Boy, “The Voice of LA,” is the host of Big Boy in the Morning on Real 92.3 in Los Angeles. His radio show airs in nationwide syndication on Big Boy Radio Network. The morning show host has been recognized as Personality of the Year four times from the Radio Music Awards and the same honor eight times from Radio and Records magazine. The National Association of Broadcasters has also recognized Big Boy’s exceptional talent with the Marconi Award, a very rare three times. Big Boy has also made cameos in movies and television programs. Big Boy’s personal biography “An XL Life: Staying Big at Half the Size” is available nationwide and speaks to the difficulties associated with his dramatic weight loss surgery.



Entering her second season as President after 15 seasons as Executive Vice President of Business Operations, **Jeanie Buss** is now responsible for running all aspects of the Los Angeles Lakers organization. Buss continues to lead all Lakers business operations, which include managing team marketing and sponsorships as well as relationships with broadcast partners and overseeing the team’s basketball operations, working closely with Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations Jim Buss and General Manager Mitch Kupchak.

In addition to her role as team President, Buss also serves as the Lakers' Governor, representing the team on the NBA's Board of Governors. She is currently a member of the NBA Advisory and Finance Committee and has served on the NBA Labor Committee during collective bargaining with the NBA Players Association. Buss was also named by the Sports Business Journal in October of 2011 as one of the Game Changers-Women in Sports Business.

Richard D. Cordova joined Children's Hospital Los Angeles in 2005 as president and chief operating officer and assumed the role of president, CEO and member of the CHLA Board of Trustees one year later. During his tenure with CHLA, Cordova has been responsible for charting a course of growth and expansion for the organization including the construction of the 317 bed state-of-the-art Marion and John E. Anderson Pavilion and achieving a top five national ranking in the prestigious U.S. News & World Report survey of best children's hospitals. Prior to CHLA, Cordova was associated with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, a non-profit integrated health care system with revenues in excess of \$20 billion and 30 hospitals in eight states, a health plan with more than eight million members and eight physician groups. Cordova also served in previous leadership roles with the Department of Public Health for the City and County of San Francisco, the Community Health Network, San Francisco General Hospital, the Department of Health & Services for the County of Los Angeles including the General Hospital of Los Angeles County and Olive View Medical Center. He is a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives (FACHE) and serves as the organization's Chairman. He currently serves on the board of the California Children's Hospital Association (CCHA) and the Board of Virtual PICU Systems, LLC. He was selected one of America's "Top 100 Most Influential Hispanics" by Hispanic Business Magazine in 2005. He was named one of the "Most Powerful People in Healthcare" by Modern Healthcare Magazine in 2006; and he was selected one of the "Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare" by Modern Healthcare Magazine (2008, 2010, 2014). Cordova was also selected "CEO of the Year" by Los Angeles Business Journal in 2011.



Michael Zislis is a serial entrepreneur, restaurateur, hotelier and philanthropist. He brewed his first beer at the age of 13 and by the time he was a student at USC he was a master brewer. He opened his first brew pub, Manhattan Beach Brewing Company and then continued to open additional brew pubs around the world. In 2000, he introduced Rock'N Fish, a seafood and steak house in Manhattan Beach and has since opened additional restaurants. In 2004, he added hotelier to his title he transformed an urban revitalization project in Manhattan Beach into the area's first and only luxury boutique hotel called Shade which was named to the 2007 Conde Nast Hot list. 2011 brought the elegant yet welcoming oceanfront restaurant The Strand House featuring unparalleled views with American Cuisine to match, In 2012, Zislis in partnership with rock icons Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons of KISS successfully developed Rock & Brews, a beer, comfort food and rock n' roll entertainment concept. Today Zislis is nearing completion on the second Shade Hotel located in Redondo Beach, considered a cornerstone in the city's waterfront revitalization project and slated for completion in January 2016.



ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION:

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. The Foundation, headquartered in New York, is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues in loving memory of his son T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$270 million dollars for research that supports top hospitals in the United States. For more information click on the T.J. Martell Foundation go to www.tjmartell.org. Visit www.facebook.com/tjmartellfoundation, www.twitter.com/tjmartell, www.pinterest.com/tjmartellfndn, <https://instagram.com/tjmartellfoundation/>

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